

to the Executive, during the recess of the Legislature, and this together with that for the current year in due time will be laid before you. To these documents I would respectfully ask your attention, as the best exposition of the object, the practical working, and the beneficial results of this wise enterprise of philanthropy. It affords me pleasure to commend the "House of Refuge" to the fostering care of the State, especially, as by your appropriation for its support, and the representation of the State in its Board of Managers, it has been recognized as a State institution, with the right of each of the counties to participate in its benefits. Of no public institution within her borders may Maryland be more justly proud, and I gladly embrace this opportunity to leave on record my earnest commendations in its behalf, and to identify myself among its warmest friends, and thus officially to express my entire approbation of its aims, and best wishes for its success.

I do this the more unqualifiedly from having thoroughly witnessed its operations, in its schools, its workshops, its discipline, its conveniences and comforts, all controlled by the law of kindness and religious education. These things as thus seen leave in my mind no room for doubt. The "Refuge as a Reform School" I consider, no longer, an experiment; it is an established fact, and one in whose accomplishment all good men must rejoice.

As to the reformatory results of such institutions in the United States, I have been provided with information from authentic sources, that the whole number of inmates under the care of seventeen institutions, organized at various periods from 1825 to 1856, was 20,658; of whom 16,847 were boys, and 3,811 girls; of this number the average of reform has been about *seventy five per cent.* Now, when the character of these delinquents is considered in connection with the pernicious influences upon society of such a number left and uncared for to grow up year by year in idleness and vice, and when we look at the statistics of our jails and State prisons, and estimate their cost to the public treasury, it needs no intricate calculations to sum up the beneficial results of such institutions.

To say nothing of the young delinquent himself, what argument can be urged with greater impressiveness upon the legislator as a question of mere political economy? Regarded simply in this light, the "House of Refuge" wisely administered is in truth a most profitable institution for the State. To the enlightened and christian philanthropist in all its bearings upon society it presents a higher object of interest, pre-eminent in its claims, and demanding the profoundest consideration.

*Deaf and Dumb and Blind.*—For the fiscal year 1856, there was expended for the tuition of the Indigent Deaf and Dumb at the Pennsylvania Institution the sum of \$2,608.72, and for the year 1857 \$2,152.14.